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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Cancelled).
6. (Cancelled).
7. (Cancelled).
8. (Cancelled).
9. (Cancelled).
10. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications system, comprising
at least one base station node,
a base station controller node for controlling said at least one base station node,
a switching center node operationally connected to said base station controller
node for handling the traffic from and to said at least one base station node, wherein
at least one of the nodes provides Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) cell-
handling functionality for use in the operation of the telecommunications system, and
a software configurable board unit providing a general purpose ATM cell-handling
resource is implemented within said at least one node, the arrangement being such that

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the ATM cell-handling functionality of the board unit can be changed in accordance with particular requirements of the telecommunications system.

11. (Original) A telecommunications system according to claim 10, wherein the traffic is handled by means of ATM connections.

12. (Original) A telecommunications system according to claim 11, wherein the board unit comprises a software-configurable ATM Multifunction Board.

13. (Original) A telecommunications system according to claim 12, wherein the ATM Multifunction Board comprises a board processor and at least one application processor.

14. (Original) A telecommunications system according to claim 12, wherein the ATM Multifunction Board comprises application processor modules, each module comprising one or more application processors and an interface logic.

15. (Original) A telecommunications system according to claim 10, wherein said at least one node comprises plural board units forming a pooled resource.

16. (Original) A telecommunications system according to claim 10, wherein said at least one node comprises plural board units arranged within a device rack.

17. (Currently Amended) An Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) node of telecommunications system, the node comprising:

an ATM switch:

A-a board unit, the board unit comprising:

an ATM interface connected to the ATM switch,

a board processor unit,

an application processor which handles ATM cells,

wherein the arrangement of the board unit is such that ~~wherein~~when the board processor unit selectively changes an ATM cell-handling functionality type of the

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application processor, ~~whereafter thereafter~~ the application processor provides a changed ATM cell-handling functionality type towards the ATM interface.

18. (Currently Amended) A ~~board-unit~~node according to claim 17, further comprising a direct UTOPIA bus which connects the ATM interface with the application processor.

19. (Currently Amended) A ~~board-unit~~node according to claim 17, further comprising a direct UTOPIA bus which connects the ATM interface with the board processor unit.

20. (Currently Amended) A ~~board-unit~~node according to claim 17, further comprising a direct UTOPIA bus which connects the board processor unit with the application processor.

21. (Currently Amended) A ~~board-unit~~node according to claim 17, comprising plural application processors formed by application processor modules comprising one or more subprocessors and interfacing logic.

22. (Currently Amended) A ~~board-unit~~node according claim 17, wherein the board unit is a software configurable multifunction board capable of forming at least one of the following resources: DHT board, CODEC board, EC board, UADP board, PADP board, IPR board, ALT board or SMX board.

23. (Currently Amended) A device rack for an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) telecommunications node, the node being one of a base station node, a base station controller node, and a mobile switching center node, the node comprising
plural multifunction board units,
an interface towards the node,
connections between the multifunction board units and the interface, wherein

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an ATM cell-handling functionality type of at least one of the multifunction boards can be changed by a software change in accordance with the needs of a telecommunications system in which the node operates.

24. (Currently Amended) A ~~device rack~~node according to claim 23, wherein a combination of the different ATM cell-handling functionalities are provided by the multifunction board units, the combination of the ATM cell-handling functionalities being reconfigurable under control of a control unit during the operation of the telecommunications node.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a node of a cellular telecommunications network, the node comprising plural board devices, each of the plural board devices having at least one functional processor, differing types of ATM cell-handling telecommunications functionalities being distributed among functional processors of the node in accordance with an existing ATM cell-handling functionality distribution; the method comprising:

- (1) detecting a change in resource requirements in the node; and
- (2) dynamically changing the ATM cell-handling functionality type of at least one of the functional processors during operation of the node and in response to detection of the change in requirements, thereby providing a changed ATM cell-handling functionality distribution within the node.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein step (2) involves changing the ATM cell-handling functionality types of all functional processors on selected board device of the node.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein step (2) involves changing the ATM cell-handling functionality types of all functional processors on plural board devices of the node.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the node further comprises a node main processor and a switch through which the node main processor

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and plural board devices are connected, the method comprising using the node main processor to perform at least one of steps (1) and (2).

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the node main processor downloads a new ATM cell-handling functionality type to at least one of the functional processors during operation of the node and in response to detection of the change in requirements.

30. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the node is one of a base station node, a base station controller node, and a mobile switching center node.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the node is a base station controller node, and wherein in step (2) the ATM cell-handling functionality type of at least one of the functional processors is changed from one of the following functionalities to another of the following functionalities: (1) macro diversity handover combination/splitting; (2) coder/decoder; (3) echo canceller; (4) unrestricted digital information adapter for circuit data; (5) packet data adapter; (6) internet packet router; (7) AAL link termination; (8) service multiplexer.

32. (Currently Amended) An Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) node of a cellular telecommunications network comprising:

a node main processor;

plural board devices, each of the plural board devices having at least one functional processor, differing types of ATM cell-handling telecommunications functionalities being distributed among functional processors of the node in accordance with an existing ATM cell-handling functionality distribution;

a switch which interconnects the node main processor and the plural board devices;

wherein upon detection of a change in resource requirements by the node, the node main processor dynamically changes the ATM cell-handling functionality type of at least one of the functional processors during operation of the node and in response to detection

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of the change in requirements, thereby providing a changed ATM cell-handling functionality distribution within the node.

33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the node main processor changes the ATM cell-handling functionality types of all functional processors on selected board device of the node.

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the node main processor changes the ATM cell-handling functionality types of all functional processors on plural board devices of the node.

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the node is one of a base station node, a base station controller node, and a mobile switching center node.

36. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the node is a base station controller node, and wherein the node main processor changes the ATM cell-handling functionality type of at least one of the functional processors from one of the following functionalities to another of the following functionalities: (1) macro diversity handover combination/splitting; (2) coder/decoder; (3) echo canceller; (4) unrestricted digital information adapter for circuit data; (5) packet data adapter; (6) internet packet router; (7) AAL link termination; (8) service multiplexer.

37. (Currently Amended) An Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) node of a cellular telecommunications network comprising:

a node main processor;

plural board devices, each of the plural board devices having at least one functional processor;

a switch which interconnects the node main processor and the plural board devices;

wherein the node main processor allocates differing types of ATM cell-handling telecommunications functionalities among the functional processors of the node so that there is an essentially equal bandwidth demand for all board devices.

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38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the node is one of a base station node, a base station controller node, and a mobile switching center node.

39. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) node of a cellular telecommunications network, the node comprising plural board devices, each of the plural board devices having at least one functional processor, the method comprising allocating differing types of ATM cell-handling telecommunications functionalities among the functional processors of the node so that there is an essentially equal bandwidth demand for all board devices.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39, wherein the node main processor downloads a new ATM cell-handling functionality type to at least one of the functional processors during operation of the node to provide the essentially equal bandwidth demand for all board devices.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39, wherein the node is one of a base station node, a base station controller node, and a mobile switching center node.[[.]]